MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MAY 1981

Lebanese Situation

Military Situation--According to the Voice of Lebanon radio, the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) again fired on an Israeli plane flying over Al-Biqa' valley but failed to hit it. Beirut radio reported that artillery and rocket exchanges continued in the French redoubt area of the Sannin heights.

Beirut radio also said Israeli planes flew over Beirut and southern Lebanon, and it reported that clashes flared up in Beirut the evening of 14 May but later eased. According to the Voice of Lebanon, however, clashes continued in several areas of Beirut throughout the night and the morning of 15 May. The Voice of Lebanon also claimed Syrian forces shelled residential and industrial areas of Zahlah on 14 May and the morning of 15 May, although Beirut radio said Zahlah was quiet the morning of 15 May.

In the south, Beirut radio reported, the Jba' area came under Israeli and Christian militia artillery fire, while IDF radio said the "terrorists" shelled Christian villages north of Metulla.

Habib Mission--According to Damascus radio, U.S. Envoy Philip Habib left Damascus for Israel 14 May following a brief visit during which he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The clandestine Voice of Palestine said that Al-Asad reiterated his refusal to withdraw Syrian missiles from Lebanon. The Tel Aviv daily HA'ARETZ reported a later meeting between Habib and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and, citing Israeli sources, said that Habib apparently returned to Israel "emptyhanded" and that Israel could not accept or agree to Damascus' so-called proposals. HA'ARETZ cited Western sources as describing Habib's talks in Damascus as "absolutely unsatisfactory" but contrasted this to remarks by an Israeli Government source, who said that things do not look so bad. According to IDF Radio, Begin and Habib met again the morning of 15 May.

Khaddam Interview--SANA quoted Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam as saying in an interview with the London newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syrian missiles were moved to Lebanon to form a protective cover for the ADF and will not be pulled out. Khaddam asserted that Syria will not yield. He said that it was a Syrian decision to station missiles in Lebanon and that the Soviet Union supports Syria "firmly and clearly." Khaddam also said that when Begin carries out his threats, he will find that the missiles are not toys. The United States should exert its efforts in Israel, he continued, because it was Israel that began the provocations. The foreign minister added that he had explained the Syrian view clearly to U.S. Envoy Habib and that Habib might return to Damascus after his trip to Israel.

SANA quoted the foreign minister as saying that the peace formula acceptable to Syria requires Israel to stop its aggression and provocations. Syria does not want war, he said.

Khaddam noted in the interview that some of the Lebanese parties in the Lebanese Front really want an accord, and said the Phalangists' control over Zahlah threatens not only Syria's security but Lebanon's as well. He stressed that Syria rejects the internationalization of the Lebanon problem because this would mean the division of the country.

Khaddam revealed that the Arab states committed to financing the ADF suddenly stopped doing so and that this had encouraged certain Lebanese groups and had given them the impression that the Arab states oppose the ADF. He suggested that if the Arabs had discussed this decision with Syria beforehand, an agreement more useful to Lebanon would have been reached. The issue is political, however, and the decisions were wrong, Khaddam said.

Reaction to Drone Downing--In remarks carried by Jerusalem radio, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin Begin characterized the 14 May downing of an Israeli drone by a Syrian SAM-6

missile as a very grave act. IDF Radio quoted Begin as saying that the missiles are a danger to Israeli national security. According to Jerusalem television, Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan emphasized that freedom of action in Lebanese airspace is vital for Israel's security and for its ability to maintain a reasonable state of deterrence. Jerusalem radio reported that Eytan also said the Syrians are making preparatory moves in the Golan Heights, although their moves there could not prove an intention to attack.

A Damascus radio commentary said that Syria proved the seriousness of its decision to confront Israel when it downed an Israeli plane. The radio interpreted this action as a demonstration that Syria has a legitimate right to defend its own and Lebanon's security, that it rejects all forms of extortion, threats and maneuvers, and that its stand will not be subject to even the slightest change.

Soviet Envoy's Comments--Beirut radio reported that after meeting with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov told reporters that in its efforts to help achieve a peaceful solution to the Lebanese crisis the Soviet Union is holding contacts with many countries, including the United States. He said both the USSR and the United States are making efforts to establish peace and that U.S. Envoy Habib's mission is part of this effort. According to the Voice of Lebanon, Soldatov also denied that there are Soviet experts or soldiers in Lebanon.

Iraq

Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi has said that if war broke out between Syria and Israel, Iraq would fight beside Syria despite its currently poor relations with the Syrian Government. In an interview published in the 13 May edition of the London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Hammadi also revealed that during his recent meeting with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper he had reiterated that Iraq cannot resume diplomatic relations with the United States until the U.S. attitude toward the Arab-Israeli dispute changes. He also denied that Iraq is annoyed with the Soviet Union's position on the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Tour--After meeting in Algiers with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on the first leg of a tour of North Africa, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said his discussions with Bendjedid had covered all aspects of the Middle East situation, Algiers radio reported. In a predeparture statement reported by the radio, 'Arafat criticized recent statements by U.S. officials, which he said encouraged Israeli aggression.

'Arafat later arrived in Libya, where he addressed a Tripoli rally on the anniversary of the15 May 1948 "usurpation of Palestine." In his speech, broadcast live by Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland radio, 'Arafat accused the United States of being the leader of organized international terrorism, as demonstrated by its support of Israeli actions in southern Lebanon.

In a speech to the same rally, also broadcast live by the radio, Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that 'Arafat's visit constituted a reply to the U.S. expulsion of Libyan diplomats. If the United States thinks it can use pressure to force an end to Libyan support of the Palestinian struggle, Al-Qadhdhafi said, then "to hell with America." He pledged that Libya is prepared to give the Palestinian resistance all the arms it can absorb. In order to restore Lebanon's independence, Al-Qadhdhafi continued, the Palestinian resistance and Lebanon should accept volunteers to fight at their side. Libya is willing to supply missiles to Lebanon, he said, but Lebanon must define its position and decide whether to accept Arab armies or Israeli aggression. Al-Qadhdhafi concluded by denouncing the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia--whom he termed "swine"--for being "quite happy" to see Lebanon and the Palestinian people destroyed.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL CHAIRS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

LD150556 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Kabul, 14 May (BAKHTAR)--A meeting of the Council of Ministers was held here today under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and the prime minister of the DRA.

The Council of Ministers decided to finalize a number of already initialled agreements, protocols and supplementary documents between the various departments and organizations of Afghanistan with the concerned organizations of fraternal countries.

The Council of Ministers also approved a number of laws and regulations which were proposed by the Ministry of Justice in line with the fundamental principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

It also approved that rice will be sold to the couponholders at a reduced price of 14 Afghanis per kilo, which previously sold at 18 Afghanis per kilo.

Similarly, the edible imported oil will be sold at 45 Afghanis per kilo.

A decision was taken that while accounting pensions the actual year and age of entering the service and the age and year of retiring from the service of the concerned employee should be taken into account regardless of the official minimum and maximum age for entry into and retirement from government service.

It also approved to give assistance to various unions of intelligentsia of the DRA and to raise the allowances of the students during their practical training at enterprises during their education.

[Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto at 1530 GMT on 14 May reports that at the Council of Ministers meeting, "Babrak Karmal emphasized the ministers' serious duties to the people and to society and the need to change the state administration into an organization that truly serves the people and the country's economic and political development. He also spoke about the proper relationship between party organs and government departments, and insisted on the leadership role of the PDPA regarding its relation to the government and society. Subsequently, the Council of Ministers considered the proposals of the ministries and of government departments and made the necessary decisions."]

NEW TIMES: U.S. CREATING OBSTACLES IN REGION

LD140654 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Kabul, 13 May (BAKHTAR)--The communique issued at the end of the ordinary session of the NATO's foreign ministers council, where the situation around Afghanistan was dealt with, is a reflection of the strategy of U.S. imperialism and its allies to exploit the situation in the interest of the American build-up in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf and a manifestation of the political designs the U.S. Administration has drawn up to dominate the world, Kabul NEW TIMES writes in a commentary.

The U.S. imperialism and its allies have been making every effort to create obstacles to and block the way to a peaceful political solution of the differences between Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, Pakistan and Iran.

One year has passed since the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan came out with the constructive proposals to iron out its differences with Pakistan and Iran and normalise the relations between the three neighbouring countries through peaceful talks and negotiations in the interests of the peoples of these countries on the basis of the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of each other, mutual respect to the national independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries involved. But no practical action has been taken to respond to the DRA's peaceful proposals.

It is noteworthy that under the pretext of a "Soviet threat", the new administration of the United States is going to build up its military presence in the Middle East, south and south west Asia in an attempt to dominate this part of the world politically and militarily.

The current of the present events and the actions taken by the United States of America indicate that the new U.S. Administration ignores the feelings of the peoples of the countries in which the U.S.' military and political policy is going to be enforced in her own interest.

The matter of great concern to us is the growing shipment of military aid to Pakistan. The arming of Pakistan with the American weapons has whipped up the tension of the situation and the danger of a nuclear war in the world today.

As is repeatedly said by the DRA Government, the presence of the limited Soviet military contingents in Afghanistan is to ward off aggression from outside Afghanistan and safeguard the national independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is greatly thankful for the assistance given by the friendly country, the Soviet Union. The aid provided by the Soviet Union helped the government and the working people of Afghanistan to defend the Afghan revolution and safeguard its gains.

BRIEFS

USSR DELEGATION TO KABUL--Heading a delegation, Darabayov Darbovich, the Tadzhikistan SSR minister of education and training, arrived in Kabul today for a friendly visit at the invitation of the Ministry of Education and Training. Dr Faqir Mohammad Ya'qubi, the acting minister, the second deputy minister, directors of the Ministry of Education and Training, representative of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department and members of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul welcomed the delegation at Kabul Airport. It has been arranged for the Tadzhik delegation to visit educational and training institutes during its stay in Kabul and to hold talks concerning an expansion of cooperation in the area of education between both countries. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 May 81 LD]

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES CRUSHED--Kabul, 14 May (BAKHTAR)--Two groups of counterrevolutionary elelents, enemies of peace and prosperity of our people and homeland, were crushed in Chaparhar Sub-District of Nangarhar and Boldak District of Kandahar Province by the security forces recently. Various types of Chinese and Egyptian arms were seized from them. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 15 May 81 LD]

PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN, FOREIGN MINISTER HAQ RETURN

BK140742 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 14 May 81

[Excerpt] Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman returned to Dacca this morning after his special mission to Baghdad and Tehran on behalf of the Islamic peace committee to halt the war between Iraq and Iran. He was received at the airport by Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar and Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman. Among others, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party secretary general, members of the Council of Ministers and high civil and military officials were also present.

Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Haq, who joined the president in Baghdad, and the foreign secretary designate also arrived in the same plane.

ZIAUR RAHMAN CONGRATULATES MITTERRAND ON ELECTION

BK120849 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman expressed his heartiest congratulations and warm greetings to Francois Mitterrand on his election to the office of president of the Republic of France. In a message, he hoped that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and France will be further strengthened in the years to come. President Zia wished Mitterrand good health and all success during his tenure of office.

Receives Romanian Legislators

AU131041 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 11 May 81 p 6

[Excerpt] Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman received a Romanian parliamentary delegation led by Iosif Szasz, vice chairman of the Grand National Assembly, on 10 May in Dacca. On this occasion, the Romanian parliamentarians extended to the Bangladesh President a message from President Nicolae Ceausescu.

[Bucharest AGERPRES in English at 0923 GMT on 12 May reported that "the Romanian parliamentary delegation led by Iosif Szasz, deputy chairman of the Grand National Assembly, were received by Justice Abdus Sattar, vice president of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, and had an interview with Shah Azizur Rahman, prime minister of the host country."]

SHEIKH MUJIB'S DAUGHTER RETURNING TO DACCA 17 MAY

BK141035 Hong Kong AFP in English 0533 GMT 14 May 81

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 14 May (AFP)--The exiled president of the opposition Bangladesh Awami League, Shiekh Hasina Wazed, today announced she was returning to Dacca on Sunday to lead her party against President Ziaur Rahman.

"I am returning home for good to be with my people to work for them and to fight for them," Mrs Wazed, one of the two surviving daughters of the slain Bangladesh president, Shiekh Mujibur Rahman, told newsmen. The 34-year-old Mrs Wazed, a mother of two, said her main task would be to "bring to book" those responsible for the killing of her father and the family in August 1975.

"I am going home after 6 years. It is a great moment," she said.

HOME MINISTER VISITS ALIGARH, MEETS INJURED PERSONS

BK131649 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 81

[Excerpts] Home Minister Zail Singh today visited Aligarh, which was a scene of clashes between a section of the students and the Aligarh Muslim University administration, leading to police firing yesterday. One student died following the firing.

Zail Singh was accompanied by Minister of State for Irrigation Z.R. Ansari. During their 5-hour stay in the town, they inspected the scene of the incident and met the injured persons in the civil hospital. They also had discussions with officials, (?nonofficials) and some state ministers.

Sufficient central police personnel have been deployed at Aligarh.

Talking to newsmen at Aligarh, Zail Singh said while negotiations were going on regarding the disputes, some political elements and interested parties were trying to exploit the situation in view of the forthcoming byelections in the state. He said that the great tradition of the university should not be sullied by acts of violence. There should be earnest efforts to sit down and sort out differences between various sections of students and the administration, he added.

The situation in the Aligarh Muslim University campus is peaceful. An official spokesman told newsmen in Lucknow today that no untoward incident has been reported since yesterday, and 4,000 to 5,000 students have already left the hostels after the closure of the university.

ROMANIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS HOLD TALKS IN DELHI

AU121832 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1806 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Delhi, 12 May (AGERPRES)--The Romanian parliamentary delegation led by Iosif Szasz, vice chairman of the Grand National Assembly, started an official visit of friendship to India at the invitation of that country's Parliament.

The delegation was received by Mohammad Hidayatullah, vice president of the Republic of India, and had interviews with Bal Ram Djakher, speaker of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) of the Parliament, and Bhishma Narain Singh, minister of parliamentary affairs, as well as other members of the Indian Parliament.

During the interviews, they emphasized with satisfaction the continuously upward course of the relations of friendship and collaboration between the two peoples, countries and parliaments, the positive results scored within the bilateral political, economic, social and cultural collaboration. Emphasis was placed on the Romanian and Indian parliamentarians' determination to contribute more to the two peoples' better mutual acquaintance and rapprochement, to the deepening of the collaboration between the two countries.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN REJECTS AFGHAN STATEMENT

BK141622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated its determination to see a peaceful settlement to the Afghan crisis and its readiness to attend tripartite talks between it, Iran and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan under the auspices of the UN secretary general or his special representative on Afghanistan.

Commenting on a statement by the Kabul administration, which was broadcast by Radio Kabul yesterday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Islamabad today strongly refuted the allegation that Pakistan had deviated from its policy of finding a solution to the issue through political negotiations. This, according to the statement, is the result of external pressure on Pakistan. The spokesman said the allegation leveled in the statement of the Kabul administration, both in its nature and in its unfounded character, was a complete restating of the thoughts published in PRAVDA a day earlier and broadcast by Radio Moscow.

The spokesman said that Pakistan's views on the 14 May [1980] proposal of the Kabul authorities were expressed at that time and there was no need to reiterate them. A complete clarification for the modalities of a political dialogue on the Afghan crisis was enshrined in the UN General Assembly resolution, which was adopted by a massive majority of UN member countries. It was known to everybody that Pakistan played a prominent role in paving the way for a dialogue toward a peaceful settlement of the issue.

The spokesman referred to the Pakistani foreign minister's important effort by which he had asked the UN secretary general to appoint his special representative so that a political process could be initiated between Pakistan, Iran and the representative of the ruling party of Afghanistan under the auspices and in the presence of the UN secretary general or his special representative. The spokesman said that the special representative of the secretary general, Perez de Cuellar, had visited Islamabad and Kabul last month.

He regretted that the authorities in Afghanistan had adopted a policy of unilaterally leveling baseless allegations against the Government of Pakistan.

The spokesman said that it was completely meaningless to say that Pakistan's stand on the Afghan crisis was subject to external pressure or to other interests.

The spokesman stressed that the key to the solution of the Afghan issue was the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the acceptance of the just and legal rights of the Afghan people to determine their destiny themselves without any external military intervention, force or pressure.

The spokesman said that it was very important for Pakistan that the approximately 2 million Afghan refugees now sheltering in Pakistan should honorably return to Afghanistan in peace.

OFFICIALS SURPRISED AT INDIAN ARMS SMUGGLING REPORT

BK141727 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad today expressed surprise at a story (?carried) by an Indian newspaper recently alleging that Pakistani arms and ammunitions have been smuggled into India. The sources pointed out that no such case had been reported by the Indian Government to the Government of Pakistan.

FOREIGN MINISTRY URGES MUSLIM UNITY ON LEBANON

LD141404 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 81

["Text of 14 May Foreign Ministry statement]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight because they are wronged; and verily, Allah is most powerful in their aid. [Koranic verse]

On the basis of Article 154 of the Constitution of the Islamic R public of Iran, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran hereby announced its view of the current situation in Lebanon and the repeated attacks by the regime occupying Jerusalem on the Arab Deterrent Forces and ultimately on the Islamic nation.

Whereas colonialist (?policies) for the division of Lebanon by Zionism and the agents of imperialism in the area are being implemented;

Whereas the regime occupying Jerusalem has begun preparations for another war against the Muslim nations of the area, with the total support of international reactionaries and their [words indistinct] lackeys in Lebanon;

Whereas the flood of arms has begun toward the nations of the area with the approval of the U.S. Senate and the open consent of the occupying regime;

Whereas lackey's such as Shah Hassan, as-Sadat and the Jordanian Shah Husayn are plotting to destroy the Palestinian nation in accordance with the wishes of their great master, the United States; and

Whereas the Ba'thist Iraqi regime and the American Saddam have become the puppets of U.S. imperialism, thus sapping the power of the armies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of Iraq in the imposed war when they should be used against the agressor forces of the occupying regime, it is necessary to have unity among Muslims based on the holy Koran and the traditions of the prophet--may God bless him and all his descendants--and outside the present political groups in order to aim all weapons at the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Islamic Iran considers the struggle until final destruction of Zionism and the return of Jerusalem to the arms of Islam to be the main aims of such unity. The unity should be forged--regardless of nationalist considerations--by Muslim nations that sincerely want to destroy usurping Israel and uproot occupying Zionism, and it should be based on Islamic justice.

The Muslim Iranian nation again repeats that even though it is fighting a U.S. puppet in the area, it will not remain indifferent to the aggression of the occupying regime against Muslim nations and will stand to its last drop of blood in unity with Islamic nations across the world to liberate the dear Jerusalem from the claws of international Zionism [words indistinct].

[Signed] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 14 May 1981

BANI-SADR REQUESTS POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS

LD141236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 81

["Text" of 14 May letter from President Bani-Sadr to the Majlis speaker "calling for the postponement of elections in Mehran and Dehloran"--announcer-read]

[Text] To the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly:

Taking cognizance of the clear violation of Principle No 68 of the Constitution, which stipulates that in wartime when the country is under military occupation, elections in occupied areas or in the entire country will be postponed for a specified time at the suggestion of the president of the republic, with the approval of 75 percent of the deputies and the sanction of the Council of Guardians; that if a new assembly is not convened, the former assembly will continue its work as before; and given that a major part of the electoral constituency of Mehran and Dehloran is either under the occupation of the aggressive Iraqi forces or devoid of people because it is in the fire zone, it is hereby suggested that on the basis of this constitutional principle, the elections in this constituency should be postponed until aggression is completely liquidated.

[Signed] President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abolhasan Bani-Sadr

AFP INTERVIEWS BANI-SADR ON ECONOMIC POLICY

NC141250 Paris AFP in English 1247 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Tehran, 14 May (AFP)--President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr today launched a bitter attack on the government's economic policy and called on MP's to reject budget proposals due to go before parliament shortly. In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, he said the budget for the year starting March 21 1981 was financed by oil profits to the tune of 80 per cent and was a recipe for "dependence, unemployment and poverty".

"The first achievement of the Islamic revolution was to reduce our oil production and increase prices, but today we are returning to the shah's policy of increasing production to reduce the budgetary deficit," he said. Mr Bani-Sadr, a Paris-trained economist who was finance minister before becoming president last year, claimed that economic sectors had been abandoned under the Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i government. He affirmed his wish to govern "with the people" and stressed that as head of the executive he should be included in all the country's activities.

"Security is the main aspiration of the people, who have lived under authoritarianism for centuries, but security must not be attained through (generating) fear of state representatives," the president warned.

Dismissing charges of Iranian intransigence over efforts to end the Gulf war, Mr Bani-Sadr said Iran had laid down minimal conditions for a ceasefire with Iraq. "We have not demanded that the aggressor pays damages for its aggression," said the president, who is commander-in-chief of the armed forces. "We have accepted as a basis for settlement the 1975 Algiers Agreement (setting the Shatt al-'Arab waterway as the border between Iran and Iraq), despite its disadvantage. We are demanding only that the enemy withdraws its troops from our territory...and the day the aggressor pulls back, the war will end."

Mr Bani-Sadr predicted a military solution to the eight-month-old conflict if negotiations failed to bring a settlement.

BANI-SADR VISITS FLOOD AREAS IN KHORASAN

LD141720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, President Bani-Sadr, accompanied by Brig Gen Fallahi, the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Behzadnia, the supervisor of the Red Crescent Soviety, arrived at Mashhad Airport this morning to inspect the flood-stricken areas of Khorasan Province. They were welcomed by the governor general of Khorasan and the commanders of the security forces. They then left for the flood-stricken areas with their entourage.

[Tehran International Service in Arabic at 0400 GMT on 15 May reports that "President Ban-Sadr returned to Tehran yesterday evening following an inspection tour of the flood-stricken areas of Khorasan Province."]

PRIME MINISTRY ASKS FOR TELEVISED BUDGET DEBATE

LD141514 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 81

["Text" of letter from the Public Relations Office of the Prime Ministry to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran--date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

Following the announcement by the government spokesman in a press interview on 10 May concerning the need for a debate on the 21 March 1981-20 March 1982 draft budget, some personalities and groups have expressed their readiness to participate in an open debate. Therefore, the Prime Ministry reaffirms the need for a debate on and criticism of the budget, and suggests to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran that arrangements be made to hold an open television debate with the participation of responsible authorities and thinkers so that the Iranian people may be informed of the issues connected with this budget in order to judge them for themselves. Representatives of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be appointed to participate in the television debate when the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran gives its agreement.

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Prime Ministry

Further Statement on Debate

LD141932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 81

[Statement by the Public Relations Office of the Prime Ministry to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran--date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On Thursday, 14 May, newspapers reported that the government spokesman and two Cabinet ministers would take part in an open debate on the budget on Friday, 15 May, at Hoseyniyeh Ershad. We deem it necessary to inform our compatriots that the government spokesman has already left for Khorasan, in accordance with a program prepared much earlier, to attend to problems resulting from the floods in that region. Consequently, he cannot possible take part in the Friday debate. As for the economic affairs and finance minister, he will be leaving for Venezuela to attend the Group of 77 meeting. This sort of planning, without bothering to seek the participants' approval, and its announcement by the media, without being certain as to whether those invited are able to take part, is nothing but a politically stage-managed act, an act that we believe is divorced from Islamic morality.

Consequently, the Prime Minister's Public Relations Office informs the public that, as announced in the earlier statement, the government welcomes discussions and debate concerning the budget. In this connection, the Voice and Visison of Iran has been asked to make arrangements for a television debate with the participation of officials and authorities so that, rather than holding such debates in an isolated place in which only a handful of people could take part, they could be held in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, thus enabling all the Iranian people, especially the oppressed people of our society who are the chief masters of the bloody Islamic revolution, to become familiar with the nature of the budget and the country's issues and make correct assessments. Needless to say, once this arrangement is made, it is up to the Council of Ministers to appoint the government's representative rather than the organizing body. Furthermore, any other institution that is prepared to take part in the debate and that has anything to say may send a representative to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Debate Postponed to 22 May

LD141904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 81

[Statement issued 14 May by the Coordinating and Cooperation Bureau Between the People and the President]

[Text] Given that some of the governmental officials invited to attend a free debate on the country's budget will be away tomorrow, 15 May, the debate on the budget will therefore take place on the following Friday with the participation of the president and the public at Hoseyniyeh Ershad.

MAJLIS SESSION DISCUSSES DOWLETU PRISON EVENTS

LD141836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 81

[Excerpts] The Majlis held an open session today that began at 0800 with a recitation from the holy Koran under the chairmanship of Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Members of the Council of Guardians were also present. The bill concerning the elimination of the phrase "His Majesty's Decree" from laws and regulations for selection of individuals for positions in the country was put to the Majlis on a single priority basis. It was decided to continue discussions of the bill during the next open session following speeches by representatives for or against the proposal.

Najafabad Deputy Montazeri replied to a speech by Hashemi-Sabbaqian. Then, in his remarks, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani referred to the announcement by the revolution guards concerning a declaration of national mourning for the martyrs of Dowletu prison. He said: The nature of Saddam and Qassemlu are so filthy that human beings cannot reprimand them but only answer them with a bullet. I am addressing those who have been fooled by these dissenters and the groups defending human rights. What slogan do you use to attack the people? How can you produce hundreds of communiques on a small thing and then not condemn the martyrdom of 100 people? Is that any less a crime than the nurder of one individual on a street? Why don't you be consistent?

I am surprised by these sisters and brothers and how they have been fooled by these words and influenced by these minigroups.

How can prisoners thus be dealt with? They use the excuse of struggle to attain rights for the Kurdish masses. At the same time, there is another example in Baluchestan, where a dearly respected Sunni clergyman living dignity itself was assassinated in his own house. Meanwhile, Dezful was subjected to a rocket attack. These are all people united in their (?hatred) for the Islamic Republic and the revolution. Such events all show the best reasons why we are right and the enemy is wrong.

At the end of the session, the Majlis speaker forwarded the bill for the merger of the martial courts with the Justice Department to the appropriate commission. He also made two announcements: the first concerning the starting times of the session, now set for 0700; and the second concerning the closure of the Majlis on (?Sunday), with open sessions to be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the following week.

During the preagenda speeches, Fasa Deputy Ahmad Beheshti discussed the origins of a unified community as outlined in the Koran.

At the end of his speech, he outlined the shortages in his constituency and also praised the selflessness of the citizens of the area during the war imposed on them.

The second speaker during the session, Seyyed Sajjad (Ojadi), the deputy from Miyaneh, talked about the martyrdom of the fighters and combatant brothers in Dowletu prison and offered his congratulations and condolences.

Referring to the speeches by the leader of the revolution, he said that it was unfortunate that some of the ulema plot under the guise of Islam and religion to bring the United States back to the (?country). He also said that it was now the time for cooperation and aiding Islam, Muslims and the world's oppressed. If you have [words indistinct] about the government and those in authority and are not happy with the performance of some then [passage indistinct]. If the situation [words indistinct] it would become worse since it is not possible for everyone to use Islamic management, wrestling with the Eastern and Western superpowers and not surrendering to them.

The last speaker of the day was Mohammad Hoseyn Sadeq, deputy from (Dorun), who talked about various matters.

TRADE NATIONALIZATION BILL TO GO TO MAJLIS

LD141540 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] The Cabinet's proposal to extend the deadline for a decision on the bill on the nationalization of foreign trade is to be passed to the Majlis. According to PARS, the bill has three amendments concerning purchase, export and commerce service centers that will also be offered to the Majlis. The bill for the nationalization of foreign trade contains a plan for the formation of liaison offices and information centers in foreign countries. The bill intends to bring imported goods cheaply to the traditional distributors of goods.

In connection with this bill, the deputy minister for foreign trade today said: This bill is supposed to be given to the Majlis on 16 May. Six committees were formed to examine the bill when Kazempur Ardabili was appointed trade minister. The bill was prepared with the help of the Trade Ministry's experts and is completely ready to go to the Majlis.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL ISSUES STATEMENT

LD141306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 81

[Supreme Judicial Council statement; date not given]

[Text] In his exalted name. It has recently been noted that the Supreme Judicial Council's insistence on freedom of action for judges, which is solely for the purpose of guaranteeing complete freedom for the honorable judges in issuing verdicts and expressing judicial views, has aroused the desire of factions, gangs and those in power to exercise influence and win unauthorized (?verdicts) from the judicial powers. Through their few lackeys, they have striven to reach their goals and have even used threats, pressure and created a political atmosphere to frighten Muslim and religious judges and bring them in line with their own views.

We warn these people who are not accustomed to breathing fresh air to stop inciting and know that they will gain nothing by such deeds and that the Supreme Judicial Council will not stop fulfilling its responsibility and commitment to align the Justice Ministry with Islam's life-giving standards. Relying on Almighty God and the support of the Muslims of Iran, it will overcome all obstacles in its path and, without being influenced by naggers and opponents of Islam, it will insist on and strive to achieve the rule of Islam's holy precepts. "Allah is verily on the side of the patient."

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES MAJLIS DEPUTY, CITIZENS 14 MAY

GF141321 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has received a large number of citizens from Tehran and other governorates in Hoseyni-ye Jamaran.

His eminence also received Majlis Deputy Imami Kaswani this morning. During the meeting, they discussed the convocation of the Nahj al-Balaghan conference. The leader of the nation has issued his directives and recommendations on this matter.

GUARDS CORPS STATEMENT ON BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD141916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 81

[Statement by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in western Iran--date not given]

[Text] By the continual efforts and resistance of the Islamic Revolution Guards, Uramanat Heights, one of the most sensitive and strategic areas in the Nowsud-Nowdusheh region, has been cleared of the filthy enemy and the devotees of Islam have taken up positions on the snow-covered peak of these heights. In the past 48 hours, the combatant heroes of Islam, in addition to heavy casualties they inflicted on the enemy, have destroyed a missile emplacement, two tanks, three guns, three ammunition dumps, two vehicles, six mortars, three machinegun trenches and eight other trenches belonging to the enemy.

According to PARS, Saddam at-Tikriti's mercenaries, who lost one of their most important positions, vainly tried to stop the progress of the devotees of Islam. The same report states that following this defeat, Saddam's mercenaries brought the Nowdusheh sector under mortar and artillery fire. As a result, one innocent inhabitant was martyred and another wounded. Our forces, after taking up positions on this height, brought the enemy positions in Tavileh under fire and inflicted considerable damage. On the Gilan-e Gharab front, the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran pounded the enemy at three points, killing some of blasphemous Saddam's mercenaries and destroying six mortar emplacements, three machinegun trenches, a tank and a gun. On another western front, two ammunition dumps were set ablaze by the artillery fire of the ground forces.

Our correspondent reported from the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front that artillery and mortar battles continued in Bazi Deraz, Charaviz, Kup-e Mush, Chamm-e Emam Hasan, Dasht-e Zahab, Pol-e Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin throughout yesterday and last night. Enjoying fire power superiority, the combatants of Islam fired at enemy positions, trenches, forts and equipment on several points. Flames and smoke could be seen for hours.

One missile emplacement, frontline guns, one artillery piece, one ammunition dump, two slit trenches, six foxholes, one tank, two vehicles and two guns belonging to Saddam's mercenary army were destroyed by the combatants of Islam on the Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin fronts in the past 2 days.

This report states that because of the remoteness of the districts, no statistics can be reported on enemy casualties. Artillery and mortar battles have been continuing since the early hours of today on the Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, Gilan-e Gharb, Zeleh Zard and Sumar fronts.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUE 502

LD141830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 81

[Communique 502 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In his exalted name. Operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and situations on battlefronts for the past 24 hours are brought to the attention of our compatriots as follows:

Yesterday, the self-sacrificing forces of Islam fired at enemy positions on the Abadan and Khuninshar fronts, destroying a mortar position, a vehicle, an observation post, several buildings where enemy personnel were assembled, and several foxholes and trenches. Artillery fire by the defenders of the Islamic Revolution set ablaze part of the Fao oil installations and also inflicted losses on the enemy.

On another front in Abadan, combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran fired at enemy positions, destroying three tanks and a mortar. In Dezful, our armed forces fired at enemy positions, halting enemy activities, two tanks, a personnel carrier, two ammunition dumps and a vehicle. Approximately 50 Iraqis were either killed or wounded.

Combatants of Islam repulsed an enemy attack west of Susangerd, and the enemy was forced to retreat after suffering losses and damage. During these operations, one Iraqi soldier was taken prisoner by the forces of Islam. Heavy exchanges of mortar and artillery fire continued between the defending forces of Islam and the enemy on the Meymak and Kani-Sakht Heights. In Sumar, our forces destroyed seven enemy vehicles and killed six Iraqi soldiers.

Self-sacrificing personnel of the armed forces of Islam opened artillery fire on an enemy missile-launching platform in the (Buban) region of Iraq, destroying a missile and killing eight servicemen.

Yesterday, four Iraqi civilians sought asylum with the forces of Islam in Marivan. They were welcomed by the Iranian personnel.

Yesterday, air defense fire by our brave combatants foiled an enemy air attack when several of its aircraft attempted to violate the airspace of our southern and western cities.

On 12 May, two combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran gained the exalted status of martyrdom on battlefronts.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 15 May adds that "the Central News Bureau reports from Ahvaz that Saddam's mercenaries, who go to any criminal length, once again brought Ahvaz under surface-to-surface missile fire around 2100 yesterday. Consequently, some houses in the city were wrecked. Four people were injured during this savage attack."]

MOJAHEDIN-E KHALQ SENDS LETTER TO KHOMEYNI

NC132008 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, following the severe clashes that took place last week between Mojahedin-e Khalq and revolution guards near Tehran University, the Mojahedin-e Khalq sent a letter to Ayatollah Khomeyni calling for an end to the rule of the clubwielders of the Islamic Republic. The letter says:

If the mercenary revolution guards of the Islamic Republic continue their attacks on various political groups, including the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, and prevent demonstrations, speeches and marches by these groups, then we will issue orders for an armed uprising and will severely confront the lackey forces of the Islamic Republic.

Our correspondent reports that after this letter was sent, Ayatollah Khomeyni, calling himself a simple religious scholar, asked the Mojahedin-e Khalq to hand over their arms to the Islamic Republic to pave the way for talks concerning their differences.

RADIO IRAN CLAIMS BANI-SADR HIDING FUGITIVE

NC131943 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has hidden Hamid Sadeq Nowbari, who has been indicated by the Islamic Revolution Court, in the home of one of his relatives. Reports received from Tehran state that around midnight Sunday, Hamid Sadeq Nowbari was taken by Bani-Sadr's men from Tehran to a safe place in Ramhormoz, where he is now in hiding. It is necessary to note that this person is the father of 'Ali Reza Nowbari, governor of the Central Bank and a close friend of Bani-Sadr. On Mohammad Beheshti's order, his indictment was issued by the Islamic Revolution Court 2 days ago.

RADIO IRAN REPORTS CLASHES WITH GUARDS IN SANANDAJ

NC132000 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] Six revolution guards were killed during clashes between Sanandaj residents and Khomeyni's mercenaries. Reports from the area state that at dawn the day before yesterday, a group of anti-Khomeyni people, who had gathered 4 km from the city, blocked the road in front of two Peykan cars carrying influential men of the Revolution Guards Corps. In the clashes that followed, the passengers in the cars were killed and their weapons were confiscated by the people.

It is said that Khomeyni's opponents, who killed these six guards, had been planning to do so for some time because they had been effective members of the corps and had actively participated in the recent crushing of the Sanandaj people.

VOICE OF IRAN NOTES AYATOLLAH ZANJANI'S REMARKS

NC141301 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Following protests by religious leaders in Mashhad, Qom and Tabriz, our correspondent reported that Ayatollah Seyyed Abolfaz Zanjani issued a statement in Tehran 2 days ago that has been distributed throughout the country.

In this statement, Ayatollah Zanjani has once again warned Ayatollah Khomeyni, Ayatollah Beheshti and the other ruling mullahs in Iran. Ayatollah Zanjani said: Your seemingly Islamic regime, Mr Khomeyni, is not national, Islamic or humane. You, Beheshti, by gathering poor religious junior students--and you know much better than I do how easy they can pour them into the streets from the religious schools or bestow ranks on them--do things I am ashamed of stating to the nation.

Ayatollah Zanjani, who has a record of long political struggles in the past, says in his statement: I doubt the sanity of these gentlemen who today commit such savage acts in the name of an Islamic regime.